



SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

ISRAEL'S EVIL KINGS

1 KINGS 14-15; 2 CHRONICLES 12-13

CHRIST CONNECTION

The first kings of Israel led the people to disobey God and to worship idols. Israel's kings suffered the consequences of their sin. We all sin when we disobey God and worship other things. Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sin and bring us back to God.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Kings 8:60

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

When we hear the word idolatry, we might think about the golden calf in Exodus 32. While today's story includes King Jeroboam crafting two physical golden calves, it points to the invisible idolatry of the heart. What is idolatry? Idolatry is a sin in which we love and value something else above God.

Rehoboam had been cruel to God's people, and because of his harsh treatment, ten tribes rejected him as king and sought out Jeroboam to be king of Israel. Rehoboam's domain in Judah was smaller but held an important status because it was the location of the temple.

Jeroboam feared the people would eventually abandon him and return to Jerusalem to worship at the temple. Taking matters into his own hands, Jeroboam led the people to break the law of Moses and worship two golden calves. God was angry with Jeroboam and sent the prophet Ahijah to tell Jeroboam that he had behaved wickedly, that God was going to bring disaster upon his house, and that there would be a new king over Israel.

After Jeroboam, Israel had other evil kings—Nadab and Baasha. Like Jeroboam, they led Israel to turn away from God and worship idols. All three of these kings were eventually judged for their sin.

The first three kings of Israel led the people to disobey God. We all sin by disobeying God. Like Israel's kings, we may turn to other things above the Lord. Is there anything that has become an idol in your heart? As you prepare this week, remember the gift of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection that paid the price of our sin. Likewise, remind kids that Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sinful idolatry and bring us back to God. Pray for boys and girls to grasp the weight of our sinful choices to worship other things and the depth of Christ's love to provide salvation.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

MEMORY VERSE

...that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other.

1 Kings 8:60, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's Memory Verse bin to review the verse with kids. A hand motion video is also available to learn and review on your room's TV.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on September 28!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

ISRAEL'S EVIL KINGS

When God's people split into two separate kingdoms, King Jeroboam became king over Israel in the north. Unlike King David, Jeroboam did not keep God's commands and follow Him with all his heart, doing what is right. Jeroboam acted wickedly and made false gods for the people to worship.

God was angry with Jeroboam. He sent the prophet Ahijah to tell him: "You have behaved wickedly, and I am going to bring disaster on you. There will be a new king over Israel. The new king will completely destroy the house of Jeroboam."

Then the kingdom of Israel went to war with the kingdom of Judah. The king of Judah said to the people of Israel, "You have left the Lord your God! You worship golden calves, and you banished the priests of the Lord and made new priests. But we continue to worship God. We make offerings to Him every morning and every evening. We are obeying the commandments of the Lord, but you are not. Do not fight against us, because you will not win!"

God was with the people of Judah because of a promise He had made to King David, and they defeated Jeroboam and the army of Israel. Then the Lord struck Jeroboam, and he died.

After Jeroboam died, his son Nadab became king of Israel. Unfortunately, Nadab was just as evil as his father. Another man named Baasha (BAY uh shuh) attacked and killed Nadab and all his family, just as God said through the prophet Ahijah. Baasha became the new king of Israel. Baasha followed the same pattern as the evil kings who came before him, leading the people away from God to worship idols.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The first kings of Israel led the people to disobey God and to worship idols. Israel's kings suffered the consequences of their sin. **We all sin when we disobey God and worship other things. Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sin and bring us back to God.**

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after Large Group.

MAIN ACTIVITY

Place a line of painter's tape on the floor, dividing the playing area into two zones. Split your group into two teams, each team going into one of the zones.

Each team starts with 10 points. Inflate a balloon and direct the teams to hit the balloon back and forth to one another. Without telling them how much time they have, set a timer for 10-30 seconds. When the timer goes off, the team that has the balloon loses 1 point.

The goal is to get the balloon to the opposing teams' side as quickly as possible so the timer doesn't end while they have the balloon. Pick varying amounts of time each round so kids won't know how long they have.

CONNECT THE DOTS



In 1 John 5:21, we learn that we are to guard ourselves from idols. This means we want to keep away from idols. Just as you didn't want to be the team with the balloon, we want to be children of God who turn away from worshiping idols. Israel's kings did what was evil in God's sight and worshiped idols. Jesus offers us forgiveness for all our sins through His death and resurrection!

BIBLE SKILLS ACTIVITY

Pass out the provided index cards. Some of the cards have characteristics of God (e.g., living, hears us when we pray, saves people, etc.) and others have characteristics of idols (e.g., not alive, silent, etc.).

On the whiteboard, create two columns labeled **God** and **Idol**. Using the index cards, work with kids to decide which column to put those characteristics in. When able, reference Scripture to show God's characteristics. (Some will be provided, but feel free to use or look up more!)

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. How did the kings of Israel lead the people away from God?
2. What might you be tempted to turn to above God?
3. What do we do when we recognize an idol in our lives?
4. What are ways people try to make themselves great, like Jeroboam?
5. Why is God better than any idol or anything else in this world?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the “extra time” folder on the TV.

If there’s a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!